

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:239
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2012
CHEAPEST AAKASH TABLET
Choudhry Smt. Shruti

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government requires an additional 22 crore units of the world's cheapest tablet 'Aakash' to move a step further in its endeavour to merge education with information technology; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this direction so far?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) & (b) Enabling education through the use of Information & Communication Technology is a gradual, step by step process in which e-content availability, connectivity and Low Cost Access-cum-Computing Devices (LCADs) like Aakash play pivotal roles. Empowerment of teachers and students through this triad is a carefully calibrated process wherein pedagogical efficiencies of the interventions need to be ensured for the target audience. Hence, at this stage, it is difficult to quantify the exact requirement of Aakash tablets and their enhanced variants as would emerge in the future. However, with a view to create an eco-system for gradually increasing indigenisation for such tablets, an inter-ministerial committee headed by Secretary, Department of Information Technology (IT), that includes representation from Department of Information Technology (DIT), Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Public Sector Electronics Manufacturing Companies and Indian Institute of Technologies (IITs) has been constituted. This committee has already met four times.